American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Devon Mathis
1021 O Street, Room 5530
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 356 - The Dilapidated Building Refurbishment Act- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Mathis:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to **support** your AB 356, which would continue to streamline the refurbishment of an abandoned or dilapidated building, when considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), by removing the sunset date established in AB 2341 (Mathis, 2018).

APA California is a non-profit organization made up of practicing planners, citizens and public officials committed to advancing the practice of local, regional, and statewide planning throughout urban, suburban, and rural California. As adopted in APA California's Legislative Platform, *Plan California*, our organization is supportive of efforts that provide streamlining for housing, encouraging the use of CEQA solely for its intended purposes, while eliminating CEQA abuse.

AB 2341 has provided CEQA litigation relief for housing projects involving the refurbishment, conversion, repurposing, or replacement of an existing building that is abandoned, dilapidated, or has been vacant for more than one year. However, without removing the sunset adopted in AB 2341, this streamlining is set to expire on January 1, 2024. We appreciate your dedication to this important issue and for the reasons outlined above, APA California is pleased to support AB 356.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 916 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

Erik de Kok, AICP
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research
The Department of Housing and Community Development